

Terms of Reference: Task Force on Displacement

I. Background

1. The Conference of the Parties, at its nineteenth session, established:
 - a. The Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts in order to address loss and damage associated with impacts of climate change, including extreme events and slow onset events, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change (hereinafter referred to as the Warsaw International Mechanism);
 - b. An executive committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism, to guide the implementation of functions of the Warsaw International Mechanism (hereinafter referred to as Executive Committee).
2. The COP, at its twentieth session (hereinafter referred to as COP20), endorsed an initial two-year workplan of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, in accordance with decisions 3/CP.18 and 2/CP.19 (hereinafter referred to as Workplan). The COP20 also decided that the Executive Committee may establish expert groups, subcommittees, panels, thematic advisory groups or task-focused ad hoc working groups to help execute the work of the Executive Committee in guiding the implementation of the Warsaw International Mechanism, as appropriate, in an advisory role, and that report to the Executive Committee
3. The Conference of the Parties, at its twenty first session (hereinafter referred to as COP21), requested the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism to establish, according to its procedures and mandate, a task force to complement, draw upon the work of and involve, as appropriate, existing bodies and expert groups under the Convention including the Adaptation Committee and the Least developed Countries Expert Group, as well as relevant organizations and expert bodies outside the Convention, to develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change (Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 49).
4. Action area 6. of the Workplan focuses on enhancing the understanding of and expertise on how the impacts of climate change are affecting patterns of migration, displacement and human mobility; and the application of such understanding and expertise.

II. Mandate

5. The mandate of the task force, in line with 1/CP.21, paragraph 49, is to complement, draw upon the work of and involve, as appropriate, existing bodies and expert groups under the Convention including the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, as well as relevant organizations and expert bodies outside the Convention, to develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change.

III. Scope of work

6. In line with the mandate described above, the task force in developing recommendations should:
 - a. Take into account the latest science, most recent evidence, findings and experience (including research, best practices, data, etc.);
 - b. Take into account the three functions of the Warsaw International Mechanism;
 - c. Consider approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change on sub-national, national, regional, international level;
 - d. Identify legal, policy and institutional challenges, good practices, lessons learned;

- e. Provide opportunities for Parties to articulate their questions and needs, good practices, lessons learned;
 - f. Share information with, complement, draw upon the work of and involve, as appropriate, existing bodies and expert groups under the Convention including the Adaptation Committee and the Least developed Countries Expert Group, as well as relevant organizations and expert bodies outside the Convention
 - g. Take into account Action Area 6 and other relevant action areas of the Workplan, including the Expert Group on non-economic losses and the Technical Meeting on the Migration, Displacement and Human Mobility organized by the IOM and the Excom on 27-29 July 2016, Casablanca, including its outcomes and recommendations.
7. In addition to its activities related to its mandate, the task force may, at the request of the Executive Committee, assist the Executive Committee in guiding the implementation of the Warsaw International Mechanism, in an advisory role. Specifically, in line with the Action area 6. of the Workplan, the task force may be requested by the Executive Committee to help it undertake activities related to „enhancing the understanding of and expertise on how the impacts of climate change are affecting patterns of migration, displacement and human mobility; and the application of such understanding and expertise“.

IV. Activities, tasks, deliverables and associated timeline

- 8. Within the framework of the mandate and scope of work, the task force is to organize at least one face-to-face meeting and to prepare its draft workplan, including a list of activities, associated deliverables and respective timelines, subject to review and approval by the Executive Committee and prior to implementation of workplan by the task force.
- 9. Target audiences for the recommendations can include, but do not need to be limited to, inter alia, the ExCom, the Parties, governments, regional organizations, practitioners, civil society, technical and scientific communities.

V. Required qualifications and expertise

- 10. Selection of technical experts for the task force will be based on the following required qualifications and expertise:
 - a. Practical international, regional, and / or national experience related to integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse effects of climate change, at a range of different levels.
 - b. Demonstrable expertise relevant for developing recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change, is desirable.

VI. Size and composition of the task force

- 11. The task force consists of:
 - a. Balanced representation of Annex I¹ and Non-Annex I² members of the Executive Committee
 - b. Technical experts reflecting regional diversity.
 - c. One representative from the Adaptation Committee and one from the Least developed Countries Expert Group.
- 12. The total number of individuals described in 11a above will not exceed 4 at a time. The total number of individuals described in 11b above will not exceed 8.

¹ 'Annex I' refers to Annex I Parties to the Convention.

² 'Non-Annex I' refers to non-Annex I Parties to the Convention.

13. The task force will be co-facilitated by two members from the Executive Committee.
14. The technical expert members could be drawn as follows:
 - a. Representatives from UNFCCC NGO constituency groups³, with no constituency having more than one representative;
 - b. Representatives from intergovernmental organizations (IGO), that have been admitted by the COP to the UNFCCC process;
 - c. Any other institution agreed for inclusion by the Excom;
15. For 14 (a)-(c) above, Excom members of the task force will recommend UNFCCC NGO constituency groups, IGOs or institutions from which representative(s) will be drawn, to the Excom Co-chairs for approval.
16. The Executive Committee, at the request of the task force, can invite additional technical experts and representatives from other bodies, as needed, to serve as ad-hoc members of the task force.
17. The task force members who are not members of the Executive Committee may not act as representatives of the Executive Committee.

VII. Mode of work

18. The mode of the work of the Task Force includes:
 - a. Electronic modalities (primary modality);
 - b. In person meetings, as deemed necessary. Support for participation applies to only those in person meetings which the Executive Committee has approved in advance.

VIII. Reporting

19. The task force reports to the Executive Committee, on a regular basis, through its co-facilitators, at the meetings of the Executive Committee, and through written reports, including progress interim report by COP23, as appropriate.
20. Progress related to the work of the task force will be captured in the report of the Executive Committee.

IX. Timeframe

21. The mandate of the task force, as described above, shall be delivered no later than COP24, with a possibility of extension, unless otherwise decided by the Executive Committee.

³ Constituency groups are as follows: Environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGO); Research and independent non-governmental organizations (RINGO); Business and industry non-governmental organizations (BINGO); Farmers; Indigenous peoples organizations (IPO); Local government and municipal authorities (LGMA); Trade Unions non-governmental organizations (TUNGO); Women and Gender; and Youth non-governmental organizations (YOUNGO)